

The Build, Utilize, Invest, Learn, and Deliver (BUILD) for Veterans Act of 2023 H.R. XX / [S.42](#)

House Sponsors: Rep. Deluzio, Rep. Mrvan

Senate Sponsors: Sen. Tester, Sen. Murray, Sen. Brown, Sen. Warner, Sen. Blumenthal –

Supported by: Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, the American Legion, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America

The Problem:

Across the country, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) opens dozens of new or remodeled facilities each year, but the need for modern facilities is much greater than VA's current operational tempo, budget, and infrastructure/contracting workforce. As of the FY2024 budget submission, VA identified between [\\$106-\\$129 billion](#) in infrastructure needs, but VA has [not provided](#) its actual operational plan to get the work done. Such a plan, as well as consistent stable funding, is necessary if VA is to serve current and future veterans.

The Solution:

The *BUILD for Veterans Act* will enable VA to modernize and build new VA facilities for America's veterans. It continues the historic infrastructure investments made in the [Honoring Our PACT Act of 2022](#) law – which invested in VA's infrastructure workforce through new recruitment and retention incentives, provided \$5.5 billion in funding for 31 new facilities in 19 states, and delivered additional tools to build clinics more efficiently in the future, including through partnerships with the Department of Defense and academic hospitals. It also provided VA new tools and funding to repurpose or lease-out unused or vacant buildings through the [Enhanced-Use Lease](#) program benefiting veterans and saving taxpayer funds in the process.

The *BUILD for Veterans Act* will bolster and invest in VA's infrastructure by requiring the Department to:

- Develop relevant plans, metrics, infrastructure workforce hiring strategies, year-by-year budgets and oversight mechanisms to tackle these issues head on and provide Congress with its plans and [performance data](#) so progress can be monitored.
- Implement a more fixed schedule to get rid of or repurpose its unused and empty buildings such as old maintenance sheds or warehouses so that taxpayer funds can be used on veterans rather than empty structures.
- Examine how it budgets for infrastructure and require VA provide realistic year by year budget requirements over a 10-year horizon – and identify if reforms are required to be in line with industry best practices.
 - This reform will allow VA, Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs), and Congress to have a clear target so that year after year all stakeholders can work towards the same goal while providing Congress with regular information to track VA's performance and increase oversight.
- The legislation includes provisions requiring enhanced independent oversight from the VA Office of Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office. It also requires VA to further strengthen their ability to detect and prevent waste, fraud, or abuse that may occur in construction projects.

If we are going to deliver new hospitals, clinics, cemeteries, benefits offices, and other facilities for Veterans and the dedicated VA employees who serve them, VA needs to make the changes required by this legislation to successfully modernize its infrastructure.